

Official Auxiliary of the U.S. Air Force - Citizens Serving Communities: Above and Beyond

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WING TIPS

SDWG Evaluated SAREX 18 June at Sioux Falls Composite Squadron. Sign up: www.eventbrite.com/e/south-dakota-wing-usaf-evaluated-exercise-tickets-25232113932

HOT NEWS REDCAP – **MISSION 16-M-0290A**: On 17 May, the Oglala Sioux Tribe (OST), in consultation with the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), state Office of Emergency Management and the Air Force Rescue Coordination Center, requested SDWG air and ground assets be activated to assist in the search for three men missing from Pine Ridge. Within hours personnel, vehicles and aircraft arrived and began operations. Aircrews from the Wing, Sioux Falls, Rapid City, Spearfish, Brookings, and Custer flew numerous sorties or ferried aircraft. A ground team from Custer, Rapid City and Spearfish assisted. Personnel from the Wing, Rapid City, Spearfish and Custer provided mission staff support. Over three days SDWG flew over 6,000 miles in search of the missing men who, unfortunately, were not found. The Oglala Sioux Tribe was pleased we were there to help and we were treated with great kindness and generosity by the people of Pine Ridge.



CAP OPERATIONS CENTER-1 (OST BUILDING)



CAP OPERATIONS CENTER-2 (BIA VAN)



CAP OPERATIONS CENTER ACTIVITY



CAP FLIGHT LINE

<u>UPDATE</u>: Oglala Sioux Tribe Incident Commander John Seidschlaw says the three men were found dead late on 23 May inside a car upside down in the White River. The supposition is that the car careened off a dirt road near the Prairie Wind Casino, went over a small ridge near Slim Buttes and crashed into the river. The car was discovered by an individual returning home from a social event who noticed tracks going off the dirt road. He followed them and spotted the badly damaged car down in a ravine where it could not be seen from the road.

Concerning the Pine Ridge REDCAP Col. Seten said, "It was an honor to have gotten to work closely with the Oglala Sioux Tribe on this search mission. The tribe is a close knit group of people and expended a tremendous amount of effort to find the three men and went to great lengths to ensure the Civil Air Patrol was taken care of in regards to food and shelter. While it is not the outcome we wished it would have been we hope the family can now find closure as the men have been found. It was also a rare opportunity to work with the Bureau of Indian Affairs and we thank them for the use of their mobile command post for us to operate out of."

HOT NEWS REDCAP – MISSION 16-M-0298A: On 18 May, at the request of Lawrence County's Sheriff's Office and Emergency Manager the Air Force Rescue Coordination Center at Tyndall AFB, Fla., placed SDWG on alert to search for a possible downed aircraft in the vicinity of Deadwood. Two SDWG aircraft conducted search sorties over the area. Increasingly unstable weather conditions in the area resulted in the search being suspended unless and until credible follow-up information was received. Such information was not forthcoming and the mission was cancelled.

HOT NEWS: USAF APPROVES ABU FOR CAP

The U.S. Air Force has approved Civil Air Patrol's request to transition to the airman battle uniform (ABU), Maj. Gen. Joe Vazquez, CAP National Commander, has announced. "As the official auxiliary of the Air Force CAP has a long history of wearing a USAF-style uniform, and our transition to the ABU once again brings us in line with our parent service," Vazquez said. The phase-in period for wear of the ABU will begin 15 June. Vanguard, CAP's supplier, will soon begin accepting orders on that date. Meanwhile, as a result of negotiations with the Army & Air Force Exchange Services (AAFES), CAP has also been approved to receive a significant number of excess ABUs. That will allow many members to receive the basic ABU shirt and pants at no cost. CAP National Headquarters is working with AAFES to take possession of the uniforms, and each Wing is establishing a distribution plan. The battle dress uniform (BDU) may continue to be worn until the mandatory phase-out date – 15 June 2021.



SENIOR MEMBER OFFICERS



SENIOR MEMBER NCOS



CADET OFFICERS



CADET NCOS/AIRMEN

• <u>JOINT CAP/BSA WILDERNESS SURVIVAL SCHOOL</u>: The weekend of 13-15 May a joint Civil Air Patrol/Boy Scouts of America Wilderness Survival School was held at the Louis and Clark Boy Scout Camp near Yankton. Officers and cadets from NDWG and SDWG and the Boy Scouts leaned the skills of land navigation, emergency shelter building, fire making, field first aid and other essential survival skills. One highlight was small arms marksmanship using 22-cal. rifles. The South Dakota Wing expresses its sincere thanks and appreciation to Boy Scout Troop 48 of Sioux Falls for hosting us during this event!











• <u>MEMORIAL DAY ADDRESS</u>: Wing Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Gary Rae spoke at the Memorial Day ceremony at the Armed Services Memorial at the Harrisburg Cemetery. His speech focused on "those who also served"; the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps (WAAC), Women's Air Service Pilots (WASPS), the Navy's Women Accepted for Volunteer Service (WAVES), Native American Code Talkers, the Ghost Army and, of course, the Civil Air Patrol. He paid tribute to veterans and civilians, who willingly served, were willing to die, if necessary, and willing to live with the consequences of war. Their sacrifice cannot really be understood, but only accepted, with a gratitude that goes so much further than the mere words, "thanks for your service".



• <u>AERIAL WILDLIFE SURVEYS</u>: SDWG flew 12 aerial surveys of terrestrial wildlife over 8 days in May in support of the state Department of Game, Fish & Parks and South Dakota State University. GF&P surveys deer, goats, mountain lions, and elk while SDSU surveys elk, bobcats and big horn sheep. The result was 33.7 hours flying over western South Dakota and the Black Hills and 2.4 hours flying over eastern South Dakota for a total of 36.1 flying hours. The CAP pilots were Lt. Col. Gary Hewitt, seven sorties, Lt. Col.

Albert Trumble, one sortie, Lt. Col. Buck DeWeese, three sorties and Capt. Matt Meert, one sortie. Depending whom a sortie supported they were accompanied by a representative from SDSU or from Game, Fish & Parks.



• <u>B-21 NICKNAME DOWN TO A LIST OF 15</u>: The future name of the new B-21 bomber is down to 15 contenders. The Air Force Global Strike Command leadership chose the list of its favorites from the more than 4,600 entries received during a service-wide contest to name the platform that ended May 5. In the coming months, Secretary of the Air Force James and the Chief of Staff of the Air Force will select the winner. The nickname is scheduled to be announced at the Air Force Association's Air, Space & Cyber Conference at National Harbor, Md.,

in September. How cool would it be if the name selected came from a member of SDWG.

Source: Air Force Magazine, Daily Report for Wednesday, 11 May 2016

STAFF NOTES



WING COMMANDER

Col. David Small Jr., CAP

• <u>THREE NEW SQUADRON COMMANDERS</u>: I am pleased to announce that Maj. Todd Epp has accepted command of the Sioux Falls Composite Squadron, 1st Lt. Jon Becker has accepted command of the Pierre Composite Squadron and 1st Lt. Mike Johnson has accepted command of the Rushmore Composite Squadron. A change-of-command ceremony was held at the South Dakota Wing Conference. Please welcome these talented officers to their new positions and lets all pitch in to help them excel in their new roles.

A big thank you to Capt. Jason Erickson of Sioux Falls Composite Squadron, to Capt. Richard Helton of the Pierre Composite Squadron, and to Maj. Craig Goodrich for their service as squadron commanders over the past few years.



WING HISTORIAN

Maj. Todd Epp, CAP

- As you have probably heard by now I have been appointed commander of the Sioux Falls Composite Squadron, an extremely challenging and busy position, so much so that I have reluctantly decided to relinquish my position as Wing Historian. If you are interested in becoming the Wing Historian please contact our new Wing Commander, Col. David Small.
- The South Dakota Wing Historical Report for 2015 has been completed and sent to the CAP National Historian. You can view the report on the Wing's webpage in the Wing History Section under the category "SDWG Year-in-Review". It is a 397-page document with hundreds of photos so it will take a while to load.

• The "Library of SDWG Logos" has been uploaded to the Wing History section of the Wing website where it is available for everyone to view. Those of you tasked with creating a logo can check the library to see what logo(s) were used for that activity/event in the past or to get some creative ideas. I NEED YOUR HELP — so far the library consists of six logos, with two more to be written up. I know there must have been many more logos used by the SDWG over the past years. If you have an example of a logo used by SDWG please let me know, better yet send me a clear close-up photo of the logo (usually on a t-shirt).



WING CHIEF OF STAFF

Maj. Nick Gengler, CAP

As there have been changes in squadron commanders and on the Wing staff. Here's the new roster as of 4 June. Some officers are wearing more than one hat and other positions are being filled on a temporary basis until replacements can be found. If you would like to fill a position on the Wing staff please contact me to discuss it.

WING STAFF	RANK		POSITION
SMALL, David Jr.	Col	CC	Commander
DeWEESE, Buck	Lt Col	CV	Vice Commander
GENGLER, Nick	Maj	CS	Chief of Staff
KUECKER, Rachel	Mrs.	WA	Wing Administrator
BEASON, Mike	Col	FM	Director of Finance
BUECHLER, Linda	Lt Col	CP	Director of Cadet Programs
BUECHLER, Linda	Lt Col	DDRA	Drug Demand Reduction Administrator
BUECHLER, Linda	Lt Col	HS	Health Services
CHRISTENSEN, Myra	Lt Col	DOS	Emergency Services Officer
DONLEY, Mary	Col	PD	Director of Professional Development
DONLEY, Mary	Col	DRR	Director of Recruiting & Retention
DONLEY, Mary	Col	DP	Personnel Officer
EPP, Todd	Maj	НО	Historian
FILLER, EW	Maj	LGM	Aircraft Maintenance Officer
FOY, Jerry	Capt	LGM	Director of Logistics
GABERT, Jerry	Capt	DC	Director of Communications
GOODRICH, Craig	Maj	DO	Director of Operations
HINESLEY, Ted	Maj	JA	Legal Officer
HOFER, Shannon	Maj	IT	Director of IT, Web Security Administrator
HUNTINGTON, Mark	Lt Col	SE	Director of Safety, CIS Officer
KIPP, Bruce	Maj	PA	Public Affairs Officer
MEERT, Matt	Capt	LGT	Transportation Officer
METZGER, Shelly	Lt Col	IG	Inspector General
RAE, Gary	Lt Col	HC	Chaplain
STEELE, Manny	2d Lt	GR	Government Relations Advisor
TBD (DeWeese acting)	Lt Col	AE	Director of Aerospace Education
TBD (Goodrich acting)	Maj	DOV	Standardization/Evaluation Officer

Squadron CC	Rank	Squadron
JOHNSON, Mike	1st Lt	31 - Rapid City (Rushmore)
BECKER, Jon	1st Lt	38 - Pierre
EPP, Todd	Maj	50 - Sioux Falls
FILLER, EW	Maj	58- Brookings (Big Sioux)
COLLISTER, Bill	Maj	63 - Spearfish (Lookout Mtn)
BIERWIRTH, Kris	Capt	68 - Custer (Crazy Horse)

Late news: Capt. Joe Oye will be the new Wing Standardization/Evaluation Officer.

WING DIRECTOR OF AEROSPACE EDUCATION

Lt. Col. Buck DeWeese, CAP

If you are interested in going to the fantastic AirVenture Air Show at Oshkosh this is a generous offer. The Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA) Chapter 289 in Tea is offering 10 FREE OSHKOSH BUS TRIPS TO TEENS 14-19 if accompanied by a FULLY PAID responsible adult with joint occupancy. This opportunity is truly an outstanding offer for a great family AirVenture experience or a wonderful gift to any youth interested in aviation. Please share this information with anyone you know who may be interested in attending the world's biggest air expo. Details can be found on the attached PDF. But please hurry, we are nearing our cutoff date for rooms so help us fill up the bus. The two-page brochure is attached as the last page of this Skychaser

SQUADRON HIGHLIGHTS

CRAZY HORSE COMPOSITE SQUADRON (SD-068, CUSTER)

(Items and photos submitted by Capt. Bierwirth)



• <u>CUSTER AIRPORT HOSTS CAP AVIATION DAY</u>: Attractions at the first ever CAP Aviation Day held at the Custer County airport were a flight simulator with demonstrations by the cadets for eager youngsters, a display of model airplanes, air-powered rocket flights, and the very popular paper airplane table where a large crowd of children learned how a plane stays in the air by making the paper plane in sections that showed ailerons and flaps that controlled flight. To boost their aviation experience we allowed them to tour a CAP plane and watch four of our cadets take flight orientation rides.

• <u>ORIENTATION FLIGHTS</u>: Taking advantage of the presence of a CAP aircraft for Aviation Day, four of our cadets; C/Amn Robert Hewitt, C/A1C Jon Larcher, C/SSgt Anthony Dillon and C/A1C Ethan Updike were able to fly on orientation flights. A big thank you to Col. Mike Beason skippering our fledglings about the sky.



LARSON-BEASON-HEWITT



UPDIKE-BEASON-DILLON

• <u>SUPPORT TO PINE RIDGE REDCAP</u>: C/SSgt Anthony Dillon, C/CMSgt Thomas Dillon and Lt. Tim Modde provided assistance with the Pine Ridge REDCAP mission. Anthony was on the ground team and also

worked as a data logger. Thomas was a mission radio operator and Tim was an aircrew observer. They put in long hours but were glad they were able to help out.

- <u>CONTROL TOWER VISIT</u>: On 28 May our squadron took a field trip to the Rapid City Regional Airport to tour the control tower.
- <u>CADET COMMAND CHANGE</u>: Our squadron has a new cadet commander! C/2dLt Jason Parry stepped down in order to attend college. C/CMSgt Thomas Dillon has taken over the reins of cadet leadership.



(L-R) SQUADRON COMMANDER CAPT. KRIS BIERWIRTH, C/CMSGT THOMAS DILLON, C/LT JASON PARRY



- <u>KOREAN WAR VETS HONORED</u>: On 21 May, our color guard performed at the Korean Peace Medal Ceremony that honored eight Custer County Korean War Veterans. Custer County joined together with South Dakota and the Republic of Korea in honoring Korean War Veterans with the award of the Korean Peace Medal. The event was sponsored by Custer Legion Post #46, Custer Senior Center, and Custer VFW Post #3442. The event was attended by veterans, officials, family, friends, and well-wishers. All attending were pleased that South Dakota and the Republic of Korea remembered the Korean War Veterans. Each of the six veteran and the two surviving spouses was presented with a cased medal set with a large medal on a neck ribbon, a miniature medal and a lapel badge.
- <u>CYBER-BULLYING</u>: Our squadron was a recipient of cyber-bullying. We have been known as the Crazy Horse Composite Squadron for 21 years. Recently, our Facebook page was hacked and defaced, allegedly by some Native Americans, who demanded that we change our name. This has been a major topic of discussion for our squadron as we love our name and we are honored to represent Native Americans. This debate will continue for a while longer as CAP's legal department researches the situation. But for now we still stand proud.
- <u>ADIOS SENIORS</u>: We have had two of our members depart from our squadron: 2nd Lt. Justin Bierwirth transferred his membership to a squadron in Maryland Wing and Capt. Victoria Bierwirth transferred hers to a squadron in Florida Wing. We wish them both well in the CAP careers.
- <u>ADIOS CADETS</u>: It's a fact of life that cadets grow up. We have two cadets graduating from High School. C/2dLt Jason Parry will be attending South Dakota State University and joining their AFROTC program. He also received the Mathematics & Science Award from the Air Force Recruiting Service and he belongs to the National Honor Society. C/MSgt Kyle Stiffarm will be leaving for the Air Force boot camp at Lackland AFB in Texas in June.

LOOKOUT MOUNTAIN COMPOSITE SQUADRON (SD-063, SPEARFISH)

(Items and photo by Col. Small)

• <u>VERY SPECIAL VISITOR</u>: On the 25th, former British Royal Air Force (RAF) Flight Lieutenant John Wilkinson, now 93, gave us a fascinating personal account of his time as a Spitfire fighter pilot in WWII. In 1941, Wilkinson left school and volunteered for the RAF. After only 8 hours of training in a biplane in England he soloed and was shipped to Florida via Canada for further flight training. He returned to England on the Queen Elizabeth ocean liner after being named the "best flying cadet" in his Florida class.

Wilkinson's class became operational in 1944 in time to help intercept V-1 flying bombs then raining down on London. He recounted trying to catch a V-1 with his Spitfire Mk XII but it wasn't as fast as the buzz bomb. When he wasn't able to slide in beside the V-1 and tip it over to throw its guidance off kilter he positioned himself behind the flying bomb and brought it down with 50cal and 20mm cannon fire. On another occasion he recounted how the skin on the wing of his Spitfire wrinkled after the wings were bent pulling out of a high speed dive.

Wilkinson recounts a time when his squadron, based in Germany, towards the end of the war salvaged odds and ends parts from destroyed German aircraft and got a mishmash aircraft flying. Though officially chewed out by his commander he was told "good job" with a wink.

Through the war he was credited with downing 5 German FW-190 fighters as well as 80 combat vehicles on the ground. Wilkinson's philosophy to staying on top was "push everything to the maximum". He was never bested in mock combat and was never shot down in real combat - despite some close calls.





SIOUX FALLS COMPOSITE SQUADRON (SD-050, SIOUX FALLS)

(Items and photos submitted by Maj. West and Maj. Epp)

• <u>NEW DEPUTY COMMANDER</u>: Squadron Commander Maj. Todd Epp has announced that Lt. Col. Ron Evenson has accepted the appointments of Deputy Squadron Commander and Squadron Chief Information Officer for the Sioux Falls Composite Squadron.



• <u>SQUADRON ADVISOR FOR MILITARY AFFAIRS</u>: Maj. Epp has appointed CAP member (Lt. Col.) and SDANG 114th Fighter Wing's Col. Greg Lair as Advisor to the Squadron Commander for Military Affairs. As an experienced fighter pilot and military leader Col. Lair will provide invaluable advice and assistance in maintaining and deepening our squadron's relationships with the USAF, the SD Air and Army Guard and the other branches of the military. These ties are more important than ever to the squadron, the Wing and CAP.

• <u>HONORING OUR HEROES</u>: Thursday, May 26th was not your typical meeting at SFCS. Nine officers and 14 cadets gave their time to honor those who have served our country. SFCS along with a number of other organizations and volunteers spent several hours placing flags on graves of veterans at Hills of Rest Cemetery in Sioux Falls. This is an event that our squadron is honored to help out with every year. After a short ceremony and lunch the officers and cadets were divided into small groups, given a map and bundles of flags and headed out to locate the graves of these heroes of our country. After locating the grave, a small flag is placed at the corner of the stone and then respectfully each cadet steps back and salutes these men and women who have served. In a few short hours our group placed about 550 flags. A total of 3,300 veterans' graves were decorated.













• <u>GRADUATING CADETS</u>: It's a reality of life for a squadron that cadets grow up, graduate from High School and move on to other pursuits. In the photo two of our three graduating cadets, C/Lt. Devon Brown and C/Capt. Nicholas Nash, had dinner with former commander Capt. Jason Erickson. Unfortunately, C/CMSgt Steven Diaconu was not able to be present.

$\star\star$ Promotions $\star\star$

Cadet Airman Promotion



Congratulations to Hunter Peters of Lennox, a member of the Sioux Falls Composite Squadron, on his promotion to the rank of Cadet Airman First Class and receipt of the General Hap Arnold Award!



$\star\star$ KUDOS $\star\star$



Congratulations to C/Capt. Nicholas Nash of the Sioux Falls Composite Squadron, on successfully completing his solo flight on 7 May. Nick finished his South Dakota Wing Solo Scholarship with four perfect solo landings at the Lincoln County Airport at Tea. In recognition of his achievement he'll receive CAP Solo Pilot Wings. Also thanks to Lt. Col. Greg Lair for taking the time to work with

Nick on this milestone on his way to a private pilot's license!





Congratulations to Capt. Kris Bierwirth of the Crazy Horse Composite Squadron who completed requirements for Level III of the Senior Member Professional Development Program. In recognition thereof she has received the Grover C. Loening Award!





Congratulations to Lt. Peter Bierwirth of Crazy Horse Composite Squadron who graduated from Henley-Putnam University with the degree of Bachelor of Science in Strategic Security and Protection Management.



Congratulations to Lt. Justin Bierwirth of Crazy Horse Composite Squadron who was promoted to the rank of Staff Sergeant in the U.S. Air Force.

\star \star NEW REGION COMMANDER \star \star

CAP National Commander Major General Joe Vazquez announced Colonel Regina Aye has been appointed to command the North Central Region (NCR). Gen. Vazquez said: "Colonel Aye was selected from an outstanding group of nominees. Her considerable skills and dedication to CAP made her the correct choice for this critical position."

The North Central Region is made up of the CAP Wings in Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota and South Dakota. The region has over 4,000 dedicated members of which over 2,300 are emergency responders. NCR operates 54 corporate aircraft and 120 emergency response vehicles.

Col. Aye has been a member of CAP since 1989. She has served in several leadership positions, among them as Kansas Wing Commander and later as Vice Commander of the North Central Region.

Col. Aye has earned many CAP awards and decorations including the Distinguished Service Award and the Exceptional Service Award with 5 clasps. Her awards also include the Gill Rob Wilson, Paul A Garber and General Carl A. Spaatz awards. Colonel Aye is an active Emergency Responder. She holds several ratings in the nation's Incident Command structure including: Ground Branch Director, Safety Officer and Public Information Officer. She is a graduate of the Air Force's prestigious Air Command and Staff College.

In her professional life, Col. Aye, who resides in Osage, Kansas, is the Dean for on-line learning at Allen Community College. She graduated Magna Cum Laude with a BA from Baker University, earned a Master's Degree from Emporia State University and a Ph.D. from Baker University.



COLONEL REGINA AYE ACCEPTS COMMAND OF THE NORTH CENTRAL REGION FROM CAP NATIONAL VICE COMMANDER BRIGADIER GENERAL LARRY MYRICK, AS OUTGOING NCR COMMANDER COL. ROBERT TODD LOOKS ON

★ ★ WING CALENDAR ★ ★

Below are the Wing Calendars for June and July as of the date this Skychaser was published. Check the Wing website for the latest information as the calendars are frequently updated.





Please send in Deposit As Soon As Possible

Bus Tour to OSHKOSH 2016

July 28-31, 2016

Price includes:

- **Charter bus service from Sioux Falls to Oshkosh
- **Experienced tour hostess
- ** Dorm room accommodations at the University of Oshkosh
- **Flight line passes for 3 days of AirVenture
- **Admission to the world-class EAA AirVenture Museum and Pioneer Airport is included with daily admission.

Adults must be an EAA member: \$40 per year national dues \$25 per year local dues.

Married couples only need one membership.

For More Information contact: **Gary Pelach** 605-310-9984 captgar1@gmail.com

EAA Chapter 289 members will have the first chances to reserve their seats until January 1, 2016.

A deposit of \$100 is required per person to hold your seat. The balance will be due in full by June 1, 2016.

Any cancellations after July 1st will forfeit \$100 deposit. No refunds for cancellations after July 15,2016.

Suites are either 2 bedrooms with 2 beds each room or 4 single bedrooms. Both have a lounge, kitchen, 2 bathrooms and shower room. They each require 4 occupants, we must reserve an equal number of each. We'll help accommodate your suite choice.



Send Registration info and \$100 person deposit to:

EAA 289 OSH Bus Tour 2016 PO Box 89105 Sioux Falls, SD 57109

Registration info:	
Names:	
EAA#	
Address	
City	State zip
Cell phone number	
Home number	
Email address	
Shirt size/s	
Choose:	
Double Occupa	ancy Non- A/C \$380/person
Double Occupar	ncy with A/C \$470/person
Single Occupan	cy Non- A/C \$490/person
Single Occupar	ncy with A/C \$650/person
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Emergency name	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
Phone number	

Experimental Aircraft Association
Chapter 289
PO Box 89105
Sioux Falls, South Dakota 57109

For More Information contact:

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AirVenture 2015 pictures





Hosted by:

EAA Chapter 289

Bus Tour

to

Oshkosh

2016



July 28-31, 2016